

# Erick & Ricky



HELLO



Hi, we are Erick and Ricky. The two of us would like to say thank you for considering us as parents for your child. We know your heart is in the right place as you are trying to give your baby the best life possible. We hope you will see the positive future we can give your baby.

Your happiness is important to us, and whether you choose us or not, we hope you find peace in your decision.



## ABOUT US

We connected with each other online, and soon after, we fell in love. We were both young when we married seven years ago, but over the years, we have matured and brought out the best in one another. Having children has always been a part of our plans, and we are now ready to grow our family.

Our work week is pretty routine. We both start our days early in the mornings, so we're already prepared for getting up early with a baby. Erick likes to start his days with 20 minutes of cardio exercise on our elliptical, and he follows that by making himself breakfast. Adding in baby's morning feeding to his routine is a pleasure he looks forward to. Then it's off to his job as an inventory clerk, balancing all the warehouse inventory.

Ricky currently works part time for a before- and after-school childcare program, but once we adopt, he will stay at home with the baby. For now, he heads out the door just after 6 a.m. to begin his first shift, and then returns home at 8:30 a.m. Once Ricky gets home, he takes our dog, Kirby, on his morning walk. He feeds Kirby and does some housecleaning, laundry, and prep for dinner before going back for his second shift. Once home for the day, Ricky finishes dinner, and it's ready once Erick gets home.

We sit down to eat and talk about our day. After dinner, we walk Kirby and then come home to enjoy the rest of the evening together.



Most of the time we watch an episode or two of whatever show we mutually enjoy. Currently, it's Game of Thrones. We do try to get to the gym every other day, or as often as we can, and we encourage each other to be active and healthy.

While our work weeks are routine, every weekend is different. One weekend can be as simple as relaxing at home or going to a family dinner, while the next weekend we will have multiple events that have us going from place to place. With both of us having large families and very close friends, there is always a birthday to celebrate, a place to visit, or someone to meet for dinner. Bowling is something we like to do together, too.

Whatever activities we may do, there's a place waiting for a child to join us. We look forward to having new and exciting adventures as parents.







Our weekends can be very festive at different times of the year. Almost every Sunday in the summer months, we have a big family and friends barbecue, or we get together at a water park. In the fall months, pumpkin farms and apple orchards are on our to-do list. The weekends are also our time to catch up on things, such as lawn care, grocery shopping, or working on a project we have around the house. We always wish for a longer weekend as there is always plenty to do.

As for us individually, we each have our own things we like to do. Ricky enjoys going thrifting or antiquing, cooking or baking, and going to any festive activity any time of the year. He's also very into design, architecture, and decorating. He strives to have the best-decorated house on the street for every holiday. As for Erick, he enjoys working with his hands. He likes fixing things or building things around the house. We do try to mix our own interests and share them with each other, showing that we care for what the other loves and that we want to be a part of them enjoying their time. We look forward to discovering what your child enjoys and taking them to their favorite places.



We know that adding a baby to our family will be a big change with a lot more responsibility and a different routine to create. It's hard to say exactly how our everyday life will be or how big of an adjustment this will be, but it is one that we have waited for and prepared for the best we can.

We do know that Ricky will be staying home while Erick continues to work. With having Erick still working and our rental income from the apartments we own, we will be able to give a child a fulfilling and financially stable life. Also, with Ricky staying home, there will always be a parent caring for the baby. And with the flexibility that Erick's job provides, we will always have the ability to have one of us, if not both us, at home to enjoy our time with the baby and enjoy the blessing of being parents.

We hope to be able to give this baby a happy childhood and an amazing future. We want to do the best we can for this baby so that you will have peace in knowing that you made the right choice with us as your baby's parents.





## RICKY

By Erick

Ricky is very outspoken and determined. When we first met, Ricky was only 18 and I was 22. The first thing I noticed about Ricky was that he was very mature for his age. I remember going into his room at his parents' house and thinking, "Wow! He really enjoys decorating and collecting all types of trinkets!" Some might call him an old soul, which I love about him.

Throughout the years of living together, I have enjoyed seeing his expressive creativity come to life through his decorating and redecorating of the home we share. Our basement is dedicated to storing his outdoor holiday decorations, anything from Halloween to Easter and beyond!

Caring and loving are two words that come to mind when I describe my husband. When I was growing up, food is what would bring my family together. Ricky has a passion for cooking, he knows that's one thing that brings families together. He insists on hosting all major holidays at our house; I can't even count how many dishes he prepares for Thanksgiving! Other than major holidays, Ricky consistently cooks for us 4-5 days a week, making sure I'll always have leftovers to take to work for lunch the next day.





Ricky will be the one to take on the stay-at-home parent role. He has been around children his whole life, from babysitting his cousins to helping his sisters with their children. Now he works with children every day as his career. Surrounding himself with children reflects what he has always wanted in life, and that is to be a dad.

He looks forward to teaching a child to walk and how to ride a bike. He is excited to teach a child how to cook and to share the recipes his family taught him. Most importantly, he looks forward to teaching a child to love in a way that will bring them joy and happiness throughout life.





# ERICK

By Ricky

Erick is a man of few words but many thoughts. He is a very smart man, and when you get to experience the way his brain works, it is truly amazing. He enjoys handiwork and trying to figure out how one thing connects to another to make it work. He knows his way around a computer, which I admire because I'm useless when it comes to technology. Erick is a wiz and just knows how it all works, things that you can't even see function.

I would also describe Erick as adventurous and affectionate. I'm scared of a lot of things, like planes, heights, and even walking across a busy street, while Erick wants to see and do it all. He loves to travel and to see what this world has to offer. He will always go on any roller coaster or go to the top of every skyscraper, and he will take big leaps or chances that others won't. Simply put, he is brave. And for someone like me who isn't, he gives me the strength I need to be brave and to take the chances that I never could before he came into my life. He really has been my biggest push and pull and I don't know what I'd do or be without him by my side.





Adopting a baby will bring a whole new world of adventure into our lives, but I know we will be amazing parents together. Since we have had the time to plan and prepare for when a baby comes our way, we are ready for this greatest of adventures!

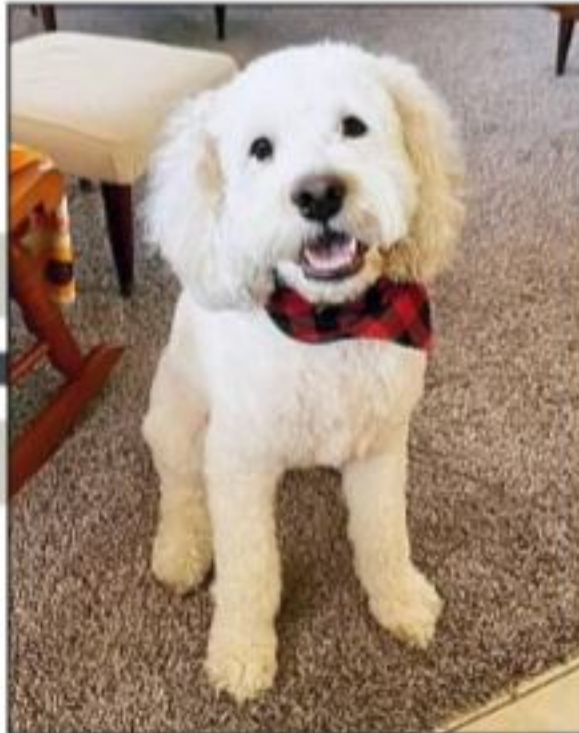




## KIRBY

Our dog, Kirby, is named after Erick's favorite Mario Brothers character. He does have a few nicknames, but the main one is Kirby Wormy. (We have no idea why, but it stuck!) He is a cockapoo and is three years old. We have had him since he was only seven weeks old.

Kirby is the first dog either of us has had to fully care for, train and be responsible for. Getting him was a whole new world for us, and we wouldn't trade it for anything! He is a very sweet and friendly dog who loves everyone who comes in the door. Just let him smell you and he won't leave you alone until you leave!





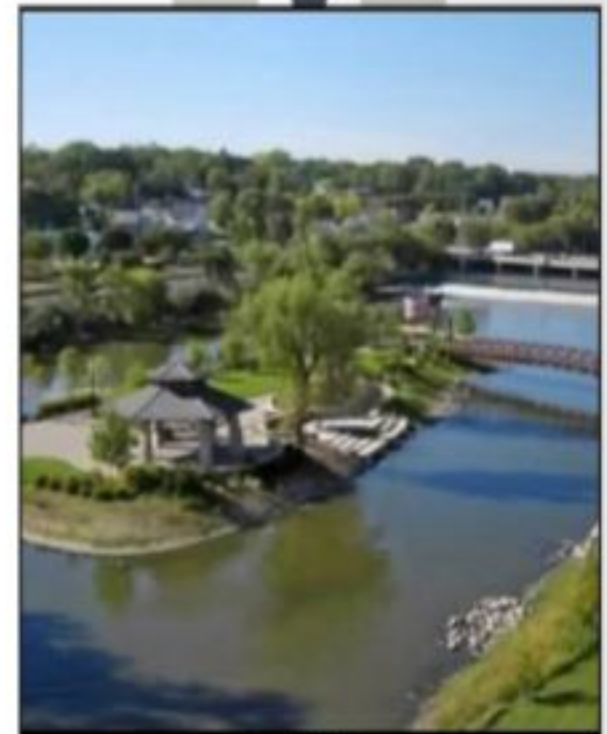
Kirby loves his belly rubs, walks, looking out the window, and especially his naps. Erick and Kirby take naps together almost every day. He loves to play and run. Throw any toy for him and he'll have you doing it for hours. Like most dogs, he loves to be one step behind Ricky in the kitchen, ready to eat anything that may fall to him. His favorites are apples, carrots and watermelon. He does try to be sneaky about things, but we always know if he's up to something. He has always been great with other people, kids, and every dog he has been around. Our nieces and nephews all adore him, even claiming him to be their own dog. We know he will be a great companion for a child.



# HOME

We live in a historic town in Illinois that is full of beautiful, older homes. We own a multi-unit rental property in this historic town. We live in one unit, and the others are rented to family. Not only does it bring us extra income, but we also get to have family very close by. We have two parks within walking distance of our home, including one with a splash pad for children, as well as multiple outdoor public pools and an indoor pool. We live in a good school district, and our child will go to the same schools Ricky attended as a child. We have comfort in knowing that our child will have many opportunities to be successful in life.

We live less than an hour outside of Chicago, so our opportunities are endless. Having the city so close brings a lot more than just skyscrapers and traffic. Within the city itself, we have multiple museums, historical landmarks, a zoo, many events, and all the beauty the city has to offer. We find ourselves in the downtown area a few times a year simply to walk around and visit areas such as Navy Pier or Millennium Park. Around Christmas, we visit the Christkindl Market or see the Chicago Christmas tree. We also have Santa's Village which is a children's amusement park and is a great place to visit around the holidays.





As for outside the city, we have a range of places to go. They include another zoo, which we visit once or twice a year, and Six Flags Great America amusement park, which we have season passes for. There are also lots of shops and restaurants the area has to offer.

Living in the Midwest, we get all four seasons, which we love! We get everything from 100-degree sunny summer days to -10 degree winters with lots of snow! The variety is great for children as they can enjoy the splash pads, pools and parks in the summer, and sledding, skiing, and ice skating in the winter.

The best part about where we live is having almost all our family and friends close by. It makes a world of difference to have the support of family and friends for both us and our future child. Whether a short drive away, or even living next door to us, it's truly the best part of all!





## ERICK'S FAMILY

We both come from large families and are very close to them. One of the biggest pluses is that most of them live less than an hour away from us, if not closer.

Erick is the youngest of three boys. Erick's eldest brother is married, and he and his wife have three children, two boys and a girl. Erick's other brother passed away in 2021 from a rare blood disorder.





Erick's parents live with his eldest brother and family less than 10 minutes away. Erick and his parents are very close. He visits them a few times a month, and he and his mom talk on the phone almost every day.



Both of Erick's parents are from Mexico, and some of his mom's side of the family are still there. Erick's grandma visits from Mexico a few times a year, and each visit is more special than the last.

Erick has 30 first cousins, so family gatherings are always huge! Most of Erick's extended family we see at birthday parties or on holidays, but a few of his cousins we get together with multiple times a month. We try to plan a lot of ways to see each other, from dinners at home to a weekend trip.







## Ricky's Family

Ricky is the fifth of six children, three boys and three girls. Like the Brady Bunch, he always says. Ricky's eldest brother lives at home with their parents. His eldest sister is engaged and has two daughters. Ricky's middle sister has two boys, and she and her family live in one of our rental apartments. His youngest brother is single and living on his own. Ricky's youngest sister lives in our other rental apartment.

Ricky's parents are married and still live in his childhood home, about 15 minutes away. His grandparents on his dad's side live in Mexico, but his grandmother on his mom's side lives nearby. With her living alone, we try to take her out and visit as often as we can.

With Ricky's dad's parents being in Mexico, we don't get to see them often, but we stay connected through social media. We took a trip earlier this year to visit them and are planning another one for next year.

Though we are of Mexican heritage, on Ricky's mom's side there is also Polish heritage. We have no connection with family in Poland, for we have been here for a few generations now, but we still follow a few Polish customs.

With the two of us combined, we have a total of seven nieces and nephews. We try to spoil them all and to see them as much as we can. We love them all so much! We both are godparents to one of our nieces, and Ricky is Godfather to one of his nephews.







## TRADITIONS

With family comes holiday traditions and celebrations. The major holidays we celebrate are Easter, Thanksgiving and both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We host the holidays for both sides of our families, Ricky's family in the day and Erick's family in the evening. Ricky loves to host, do all the cooking, and just enjoy having the family come together.



With each holiday comes a whole menu, from main items to the different sides and amazing desserts. Each holiday creates its own special feeling, which makes it more important. For each holiday, we have a few traditional things we do every year. For Easter, all the kids do an egg hunt in the yard. To see the kids so excited about hunting and finding the eggs is always the best part of the day. We have Easter baskets from the Easter Bunny to see in the morning. We also do the Blessing of the Basket which is a Polish tradition where you take a basketful of different ingredients for the Easter dinner to get blessed. When it comes to food, we always have ham, scalloped potatoes, lemon cake and much more.



For Thanksgiving, we do the very typical American Thanksgiving dinner with turkey, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, and all the trimmings. It's a great time to enjoy the family coming together and to be thankful for all we have.



On Christmas Eve, we do two Polish traditions. The first is called the oplatki, where you walk around and wish everyone a happy and joyful year to come. It can bring joy, tears and many hugs between everyone. The second Polish tradition is that we eat no meat, only fish. And lastly, Christmas Day starts with presents and stockings being opened, and then a big dinner in the evening. We have roast, pierogis and pozole for dinner, which is the best!

As for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and New Year's, those can be celebrated in different ways. Ricky's grandma has a pool, so many summer holidays, along with just random days, are spent there. It's always a great gathering place for those hot holidays. For Fourth of July, we always go to our town parade in the morning. At night we can see the community fireworks from our front porch, so we sit on our porch to swing and enjoy the show.

More things come in the different seasons. In the summer, we try to make a few trips to Chicago, or to the zoo and to waterparks. Also, Erick has an uncle who owns a restaurant, and he does a food booth at different summer fests; those are always a fun summer activity. In the fall we go to a pumpkin patch, go apple-picking, and even go to a haunted house. Cornmazes and hayrides are always a must do as well. Once the cold winter weather comes, most time is spent indoors with hot chocolate and watching movies or playing games. We still make time for driving to look at Christmas lights and going to see Santa with our nieces and nephews.







## FRIENDS

Friends are the family we chose. For us, our friends are just as important as our families. We have friends we share along with friends who we see separately. Along with family, we try to see our friends as much as we are able to, but we don't ever think we see them enough; especially the friends who have moved to a different state.

We have our main shared friends' group who we call "The Squad." They are the ones we most often see. We have a few things we try to do every year with our friends, such as a Halloween party, Ugly Christmas Sweater party, and a Friends-giving, all hosted at our house.

Along with bonfires or dinners we always have a great time all coming together and getting to catch up and just laugh about stories from all the years together. Some of our friends we have known since high school or even older longer. So we all connect in a very special way for most of us grew up together and have a long history together.

As now we are getting older, a lot of our friends over the last few years are starting to get married and or starting families of their own, we are both going to be in two different wedding in the next year. It's great to see them all grow into amazing people, and having them be at our sides to see us grow together the same way they are. Friends always bring a safe and happy place and ours are truly some of our most loved and cherished people, which we consider them part of our family.





## THANK YOU



Both of us are grateful to you for considering us as adoptive parents for your baby. We appreciate all that you are doing for your baby, for caring for your baby and wanting to give him or her a very loving home. We want you to have peace and happiness in your decision. We hope you will put your trust in us just as we hope to have trust in you.

We hope we have shown you what a beautiful and happy life we can give to your baby. We want you to know that he or she will be very cherished and loved as a part of our family.

Thank you. This really does mean the world to us.

*Erick and Ricky*